AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A message brokering system for providing a publish/subscribe service for publisher and subscriber application programs, comprising:

means for receiving published messages from one or more publisher application programs;

means for forwarding received messages to connected message brokering systems;

means, responsive to a communication characteristic of an inter-broker communication link between the message brokering system and one of said connected message brokering systems, for selecting a message filtering policy which is appropriate for the communication characteristic; and

means for controlling the forwarding of messages via the inter-broker communication link using the selected message filtering policy, wherein

the means for selecting a message filter policy is separate from the publisher and subscriber application programs.

2. (Original) A message brokering system according to claim 1, wherein the communication characteristic used to select a message filtering policy is a communication protocol provided by the communication link.

3. (Original) A message brokering system according to claim 1, wherein establishing an inter-broker communication link includes:

defining the communication characteristic for the link;

comparing the communication characteristic with a list of administrator-defined associations between communication characteristics and message filtering policies, to select a message filtering policy for the communication link; and

storing an identification of the selected message filtering policy in association with the communication link.

4. (Original) A message brokering system according to claim 1, wherein the communication characteristic used to select a message filtering policy includes a dynamic communication characteristic.

5. (Original) A message brokering system according to claim 4, wherein the communication characteristic used to select a message filtering policy includes a measure of subscription activity.

6. (Original) A message brokering system according to claim 4, wherein the communication characteristic used to select a message filtering policy includes a measure of redundant message transmissions.

7. (Original) A message brokering system according to claim 1, wherein the means for controlling includes means for implementing a broadcast messaging policy and means for implementing a proxy-subscription-based message filtering policy, a respective one of said

means for implementing being activated in response to said selection of a message filtering policy.

8. (Original) A message brokering system according to claim 7, wherein said means for implementing a proxy-subscription-based messaging policy comprises:

means for receiving subscription information for connected message brokering systems and for storing said subscription information for comparison with received published messages;

means for forwarding to connected message brokering systems subscription information for subscriber application programs connected to the message brokering system.

9. (Original) A message brokering system according to claim 7, wherein the broadcast messaging policy is implemented for links which provide a non-transactional messaging protocol and the proxy-subscription-based message filtering policy is implemented for links which provide a transactional messaging protocol.

10. (Original) A message brokering system according to claim 1, wherein the selection of a message filtering policy is specific to a selected message topic or topic group.

11. (Currently Amended) A data processing system comprising:

at least a first and a second message broker, connected via one or more inter-broker communication links and configured to provide a publish/subscribe service for publisher and subscriber application programs;

means, responsive to a communication characteristic of a communication link between the first and second message brokers, for selecting a message filtering policy which is appropriate for the communication characteristic; and

means for controlling the transmission of messages via the inter-broker communication link using the selected message filtering policy, wherein

the means for selecting a message filter policy is separate from the publisher and subscriber application programs.

12. (Original) A data processing system according to claim 11, wherein said means for selecting a message filtering policy is adapted to select one of a plurality of different policies in response to characteristics of a received message.

13. (Original) A data processing system according to claim 12, wherein the means for selecting a message filtering policy is adapted to select one of a plurality of different policies in response to a topic identifier within a received message.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for providing a publish/subscribe brokering service for publisher and subscriber application programs, comprising program code recorded on a machine-readable recording medium, the program code comprising:

means for receiving published messages from one or more publisher application programs;

means for forwarding received messages to connected message brokering systems;

means, responsive to a communication characteristic of an inter-broker communication link between the message brokering system and one of said connected message brokering systems, for selecting a message filtering policy which is appropriate for the communication characteristic; and

means for controlling the forwarding of messages via the inter-broker communication link using the selected message filtering policy, wherein

the means for selecting a message filter policy is separate from the publisher and subscriber application programs.

Claim 15 (Cancelled)

16. (Original) A method of configuring a message brokering system for efficient inter-broker communications in a multi-broker publish/subscribe environment in which publishers publish messages via message brokers and subscribers register with message brokers to receive published messages, the method comprising:

responsive to a communication characteristic for a communication link between the message brokering system and another message brokering system, selecting a message filtering policy according to the determined communication characteristic; and

controlling the transmission of messages via the communication link using the selected message filtering policy.